A Bad Case of Stripes Mini-Unit

Dear Teaching Friends,

This Common Core aligned short unit is designed to help your students begin working with character traits and summarizing fiction. The unit is based on A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon to be used as a class read-aloud.

Common Core Standards
4.RL.2 I can summarize the text.
4.RL.3 I can use specific details to describe a character.

This unit will help your students begin to identify words that describe characters. They will also be asked to compare and contrast characters, as well as reflect on the events in the story. I did not include an answer key, as student responses will be quite varied. Use your own judgement in deciding what is reasonable. The rubric at the end of the unit will help you if you need to assign a grade to your students for their work with A Bad Case of Stripes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at jennbrist@gmail.com

Happy Teaching!

Jenn Brist
**A Bad Case of Stripes Mini-Unit**

**Day One**

Read *A Bad Case of Stripes* aloud to the class. Hand out the webs. Students will brainstorm character traits, either single words or short phrases, for Camilla. You could have students complete this large group, with a partner, or independently.

Students should then complete the reflection questions. This can be done independently or with a partner. Be sure to take time for discussion of their answers either in small or large groups. You may see a variety of interesting perspectives! Be sure that students understand the underlying problem in the story - that Camilla was trying so hard to please everyone that she was not true to herself.

**Day Two**

Re-read *A Bad Case of Stripes* aloud to the class. Have students share some of the character traits they listed on their webs yesterday. Students may add additional ideas to their own webs. Students will use their webs to help them complete the evidence of traits worksheet today. Do a few examples together of finding and recording evidence of a character trait.

If your students have not learned the “Somebody wanted” summarizing format, teach it to the large group. There are some great visuals of this model on Pinterest! Students should use the summarizing hand-out to complete a summary of the story.

**Follow-up activity:**

Have the students write about a time they were trying too hard to please someone else.
A Bad Case of Stripes
by David Shannon

Name: ____________________________________________

Use the web to brainstorm Camilla’s character traits. Use single words or short phrases.
Why was Camilla afraid to admit she liked lima beans?
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
What caused Camilla’s bad case of stripes? How do you know?
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
What did Camilla learn from her experience?
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
A Bad Case of Stripes
by David Shannon

Name: ____________________________________________

Choose 2 character traits from your web. Find evidence in the story to prove the traits you chose describe Camilla.

Trait: ____________________________________________

Evidence: __________________________________________

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

Trait: ____________________________________________

Evidence: __________________________________________

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________
Summarize the story using the “Somebody Wanted” format.

Somebody: ____________________________
Wanted: ____________________________

_________________________________
But: ______________________________

_________________________________
So: ______________________________

_________________________________
Then: _____________________________

_________________________________
# A Bad Case of Stripes Grading Rubric

by David Shannon

**Name:** ____________________________________________

**For Teacher Use:** Rate the quality of student work using this rubric.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Traits Web</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traits are accurate and thoughtful. Shows a deep understanding of the character.</td>
<td>Traits are accurate. Shows a basic understanding of the character.</td>
<td>Traits show some misunderstandings or incomplete answers. Shows a lack of understanding of the character.</td>
<td>Traits show serious misunderstanding of the story or are not complete. Shows a serious lack of understanding of the character.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflection Questions</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflections are accurate and thoughtful. Shows a deep understanding of the story.</td>
<td>Reflections are accurate, but answers are basic. Shows a basic understanding of the story.</td>
<td>Reflections show some misunderstandings. Shows a lack of understanding of the story.</td>
<td>Reflections show serious misunderstanding of the story or are not complete. Shows a serious lack of understanding of the story.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Traits with Evidence</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answers are accurate and thoughtful. Shows a deep understanding of the character.</td>
<td>Answers are accurate, but basic. Shows a basic understanding of the character.</td>
<td>Answers have some mistakes or lack information. Shows a lack of understanding of the character.</td>
<td>Answers have multiple mistakes or includes too little information. Shows a serious lack of understanding of the character.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary is accurate and thoughtful.</td>
<td>Summary is accurate and makes sense.</td>
<td>Summary is not quite accurate or may be confusing.</td>
<td>Summary is not complete, has multiple mistakes, or is confusing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Grade:** ____________

**Comments:**